

ARBOUR DAY

Observance Should be General.

The Objects for which it Stands are to the General Advantage of Canada.

Arbour Day is not observed in Canada to the extent which its importance warrants.

The people of Canada must ever keep in mind their dependence upon her forests. With large areas suitable only for forestry purposes, it is essential that the value of trees and their protection should be thoroughly impressed upon Canadians.

While Arbour Day is observed in the rural schools, and in some city schools, its recognition by the general public is not as general as it should be.

In the province of Quebec, Arbour Day is celebrated to a limited extent in the schools. This is not sufficient, however. The observance of Arbour Day should be general. There is need in every part of Canada for the education and instruction which Arbour Day represents. The day should be observed as a public holiday, at a time most suited to the climatic conditions of the locality. Public recognition should be given to Arbour Day, and the planting and protection of shade trees, the preparation of flower and vegetable gardens, and the thorough cleaning up of homes and surroundings should be advocated as special duties for the day.

Arbour Day has its justification in the value of trees, from whatever point of view they may be considered. Nothing contributes so much to make the world a pleasant place to live in as trees. The true home feeling is not satisfied without the presence of the trees, with their shelter and shade, their beauty of form and leaf, their blossom and fruit, their varying shades with the passing of the seasons, and their fullness of colour in the autumn days. They also afford homes and shelter for our feathered friends—the birds—during their annual visits to us.

There is nothing which will add beauty and value to a home or the schoolhouse more than the presence of trees; there is likewise nothing which adds more to the comfort of the pedestrian than shade trees on the roadside. The way may be long and dusty, but under the cool shade of the trees relief is found.

It is to be hoped, therefore, that the celebration of Arbour Day will become more general; that the planting and care of trees and shrubs around schoolhouses, homes, public spaces and by roadsides may have the effect of developing a keener appreciation of the value and beauty of trees; and that in thus enlarging the field of Arbor Day activities, greater interest may be created in the protection of our Canadian forests from the reckless destruction by fire and the axe with which they are threatened.—Commission of Conservation.



EX-MAYOR OLIVER.

Ex-Mayor Oliver, who has just been operated on for appendicitis in Toronto, was for two terms Mayor of that city. Mr. Oliver, who was born at Erin, Ontario, in 1852, is probably best known through his municipal activities, having been an alderman, a controller and Mayor of the city of Toronto, and is now president of the Canadian National Exhibition. Mr. Oliver is one of the most progressive and substantial business men in the Ontario metropolis.

PLANS OF HYDRO-COMMISSION

It is expected that the Ontario Hydro-Electric will by July have completed its plans for the securing of a new supply of power. The commission is faced with the prospect of exhausting its present contract for 100,000 horsepower, and is weighing alternate propositions—the purchasing of additional power along the lines now followed, or the widening of the policy of developing its own power initiated with the Wasdell's Falls and Eugenia Falls plants.

Two and a half millions of dollars is the aggregate reserve over and above liabilities accumulated to date by the 69 municipalities in the Hydro-Electric system, according to the annual report of the commission.

The report show plant assets of the municipalities at \$12,000,000-odd, and cash and other liquid assets of \$2,348,000, a total of \$15,249,203.

On the other side of the sheet there are liabilities of \$12,702,680, of which over ten and a half millions is represented by debenture issues. The reserves amount to \$2,546,513, of which \$625,217 is sinking fund reserve, \$850,618 depreciation reserve, and \$750,549 surplus.

The total capital cost of the Niagara and other systems that go to make up the Hydro-Electric system now amounts to \$10,130,044. The operating part of the Niagara system represents an expenditure on capital account of \$2,920,945. The Windsor extension represents an expenditure of \$1,030,795. The duplication of the Niagara-to-Dundas transmission line cost \$305,570. The expenditure on wood pole lines to the end of the year was \$1,239,496.

The detailed returns of all the municipalities in the Niagara zone show a surplus applicable to depreciation reserve account of \$149,123, or considerably more than would be needed to meet the sinking fund payments if the government required them, a step that will probably be taken next year.

The average horse-power consumption for the year ending October 31, 1914, was 50,752, of which 20,597 was taken by Toronto, 5,675 by Hamilton and 4,203 by London.

THE TRAGEDY OF UNEMPLOYMENT.

There is evidence in many directions that the tremendous amount of unemployment at present existing is steadily undermining the health of the people. This lack of employment, with its consequent poverty and destitution, brings about lowered vitality in its victims, weakens their resisting powers and lessens their immunity to disease. And more than health is undermined as a result—for many of those who are forced to become charity cases, because of unemployment, never become self-respecting citizens again; they will have received charity too long.

The cases which are constantly being brought to our notice, and which are the most pathetic of all, are those of self-respecting citizens who have never received or asked for aid before, and who would indeed in many instances rather starve than receive alms.

Vigorous Action Needed.

It is said on reliable authority that at least 70 per cent. of the members of the Building Trades Council are at present unemployed, other industries, of course, being in similar proportions. Such a condition of affairs is appalling, and no relief work, however well done, can begin to cope with such a situation. Nothing less than a vigorous organization to deal with the whole problem from the standpoint of work for the unemployed will be of any value. Work can be obtained and made for many of those who need it most. It is not possible to place all those out of work at one kind of occupation; but if the matter were handled systematically and thoroughly, many different schemes could at once be launched which could do much to relieve the present distress.

There can be little doubt that the remarkably low mortality rates which we have achieved in this city during the past few years will be materially increased unless energetic action is immediately taken.—Public Health, Toronto.

A MUNICIPAL INDUSTRIAL SECTION.

The model industrial section owned by the city of Regina has attracted considerable attention in other municipalities. The annual financial statement of the city of Regina shows that the move on the part of the city of Regina to create this industrial district is not only a good one from the point of the general appearance of the city, but also a very profitable one. The statement shows that the city owns properties valued at over \$18,000,000, but these figures include sewerage and waterworks systems, pavements, etc. After deducting these items, which are considered "unsaleable," there still remains \$12,000,000 worth of realizable assets.